

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01
DHA-02 ACDA-07 /086 R

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S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE
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P 160655Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON
ZAIRE

FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON BORDER ATTACK
ISSUED 15 MARCH.

QUESTION: WE UNDERSTAND ZAIRE HAS ASKED US FOR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY DETAILS?

ANSWER: A DC-8 LOADED WITH A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT FOR
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THE TROOPS, (E.G., BACK PACKS) MEDICINES, FUEL BLADDERS,
COMBAT RATION WILL DEPART TODAY FOR KINSHASA.

(IF ASKED WHETHER THIS IS ALL) WE WILL BE SENDING
OTHER MATERIEL LIKE SPARE PARTS FOR C-130S AND COMMUNI-
CATIONS EQUIPMENT AS IT IS ASSEMBLED.

QUESTION: HAS ZAIRE ASKED ITS EUROPEAN FRIENDS FOR AID?

ANSWER: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE ALSO RECEIVED REQUESTS.

(IF ASKED WHAT IS THEIR RESPONSE:) YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THEM.

QUESTION: ARE WE PROVIDING MUNITIONS?

ANSWER: NO, WE ARE NOT.

QUESTION: WHEN IS THE DC-8 DUE TO ARRIVE?

ANSWER: THE DC-8 WILL ARRIVE IN KINSHASA EARLY MORNING MARCH 16, KINSHASA TIME.

QUESTION: FROM WHERE IS IT LEAVING?

ANSWER: IT IS LEAVING FROM DOVER, DELAWARE.

QUESTION: CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE?

ANSWER: THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN THE SOUTHWESTERN CORNER OF SHABA MAY HAVE DETERIORATED SLIGHTLY; WE HAVE HAD REPORTS OF ACTIVITY BEYOND THE THREE TOWNS I HAVE MENTIONED TO YOU IN EARLIER BRIEFINGS (KAPANGA, KISENGE, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND DILOLO). WE ARE WATCHING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON THE STATUS OF AMERICANS IN THE AREA?

ANSWER: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 90 AMERICANS IN WESTERN SHABA. EIGHTY-TWO OF WHOM ARE EMPLOYEES OF AN AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BASED AT KOLWEZI TO THE WEST OF LUBUMBASHI.

QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO EVACUATE THESE PERSONS?

ANSWER: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR EMPLOYER, CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA, A SUBSIDIARY OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY OF BOISE, IDAHO, IS MAKING PLANS TO EVACUATE THE DEPENDENTS (26 IN ALL) OF THESE EMPLOYEES.

QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONTACT WITH THE EIGHT MISSIONARIES STILL BEING DETAINED IN KAPANGA?

ANSWER: YES. THE MISSIONARIES WERE ALLOWED TO CONTACT
THEIR MISSION HEADQUARTERS IN LUBUMBASHI 15 MARCH.
ONCE AGAIN THEY REPORTED;AT EVERYONE IS WELL.

IF ASKED

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE MISSIONARIES IN SANDOA?

ANSWER: THE INVADING FORCES EARLY MARCH 15 APPARENTLY
TOOK OVER THE MISSION AT SANDOA (LOCATED ABOUT 12
KILOMETERS WEST OF THE TOWN) AND ORDERED THE TWO
REMAINING MISSIONARIES TO HALT RADIO CONTACT. WE HAVE
HEARD THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE FORCES SENT A RADIO
MESSAGE THAT THE TWO WOULD BE TREATED WELL.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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